(c) the progress so far achieved for roofing of the Platform Nos. 1 & 2 of Chengannur Station; and

(d) whether Government are taking necessary steps to complete the entire roofing of both Platforms during 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Works relating to improvement of Chengannur Railway Station were carried out recently at a cost of Rs. 14 lakhs. In view of the growing passenger traffic it has been decided to further increase the passenger amenities at the station by providing additional 2nd class paid waiting hall and advance reservation facilities during 1990-91 subject to availability of funds.

(b) Extension of platform No. 1 was sanctioned during 1989-90 at a cost of Rs. 2.85 lakhs, but could not be progressed due to paucity of funds. Sufficient allocation will be made to complete this work during 1990-91.

(c) and (d) Adequate cover over platform No. 1 exists. For platform No. 2 the deficiency in the platform covering is proposed to be eliminated by extending the cover by 48 Metres during 1990-91 subject to availability of funds.

Child labour in the country

2181. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of child labourers in the country; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to stop the inhuman exploitation of children in various industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) According to the 43rd round (during July, 1987 June, 1988) Survey of the National Sample Survey, the number of child labourers in the country is estimated to be about 17 million.

(b) The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits the employment of children below fourteen years of age in certain specified occupations and processes. It also seeks to regulate their conditions of work in employments in which they are not prohibited from working. There are provisions in several other labour laws such as the Factories Act, 1948; the Mines Act, 1952; the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966; the Shops and Commercial Establishments Acts of the States/Union Territories; etc. which either prohibit or regulate the employment of children in specified areas. All these Acts are in force at present. Government have also formulated the National Policy on Child Labour -1987 which provides for a number of welfare measures to minimise the exploitation of working children.

Allotment of land to group housing societies in Delhi

2182. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 100 housing societies are waiting for the allotment of land in Papan Kalan in Delhi for more than 5 years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and by when the same is likely to be allotted to these societies; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the promoters of these societies have complained to Government that DDA officials are deliberately delaying the allotment of the land in order to benefit the private coloniser; if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The concentual plan of the Papan Kalan project has been recently approved by the Delhi Urban Art Commission. It is a big and long term project meant to accommodate one million

population, Development and allotment of land for various uses including the Co-operative Group Housing Societies will be a continuous process till the project is fully implemented. It is not possible at this stage of the project to give any time frame for its completion and allotment of land to societies.

(c) No such complaints have been made to the D.D.A.

Out of turn allotment of flats by Vice-Chairman of DDA

2183. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the former Vice-Chairman of the Delhi Development Authority had allotted out of turn about 256 flats of various categories during the last nine months of 1989 and whether there was political pressure for doing so; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criterion for out of turn allotment of flats and also the policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b). Out of turn allotments of DDA flats is done by Lt. Governor, Delhi/Vice-Chairman, D.D.A. on merits of each case and as per the guidelines laid down by the Government from time to time. According to current guidelines in the matter Lt. Governor, Delhi/Vice-Chairman, DDA can allot 2-1/2 per cent of the total flats allotted during a year on out of turn basis in cases of extreme compassion and hardship, as also widows and physically handicapped persons and in such other special cases which in their opinion deserves special consideration. 260 out of turn allotments were sanctioned during the last 9 months of the year 1989. Out of these only 16 were sanctioned by the then Vice-Chairman, DDA.

Exploitation of consumers

2184. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the concern expressed in December last by the President of National Consumer Protection Commission, Justice V. B. Eradi over the exploitation of consumers, stating that the Consumer Protection Act of 1986, has failed to provide respite; and

(b) if so, Government's Action Plan, if any, to to pulg the loopholes of the Act and to activate Government machinery for effectivly protecting the Consumers?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b). The Government has received some proposals from the National Consumers Disputes Redressal Commission to carry out certain amendments in the Act to make it more effectively. These proposals are under consideration. The Government is pursuing States and Union Territories to expedite the setting up of redressal machinery under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

Economic Development for the welfare of SC/ST during Seventh Five Year Plan period

2185. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether only a small part of Government's investment during the Seventh Five Year Plan and in subplans for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was actually invested for their economic development; what has been the